



San Francisco Estuary Project

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March 27, 1997

Patrick McCarty
Chairman
Delta Protection Commission
P.O. Box 530
Walnut Grove, CA 95690

Dear Mr. McCarty -

The Delta In-Channel Islands Workgroup (DCI) of the San Francisco Estuary Project (SFEP) would like to support and encourage the Delta Protection Commission to contract with Professor Chris K. Kjeldsen, Sonoma State University, to conduct baseline studies of Delta in-channel islands including the following:

1. Up-to-date maps of remaining in-channel berms;
2. An accurate determination of erosion/accretion;
3. An inventory of vegetation, wildlife habitat types, and occurrences of special-status organisms.

Prof. Kjeldsen has been involved in the DCI Workgroup since its inception. Although the conservation and restoration of in-channel berms fulfills numerous actions of both the Estuary Project's *Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan* (CCMP) and CALFED's draft *Ecosystem Targets and Goals*, and although on-the-ground studies are critical to present and future management decisions, the numerous attempts of the subgroup to secure funding for Prof. Kjeldsen's research have been unsuccessful.

The Delta In-Channel Islands Workgroup was convened by the San Francisco Estuary Project's Delta Geographic Subcommittee following a Public Meeting held February 23, 1996. The Workgroup is a consensus-based, multi-agency group with broad-based community support and has met every two months since April of the same year. Recently, the Workgroup was adopted by CALFED's Levee and Channel Technical Team.

The enclosed *Coordination of Efforts* is a consensus document of the Workgroup adopted July 24th 1996. To date, it has been signed by the following parties:

Bouldin Farming Company, Delta Wetlands, Delta Protection Commission, Department of Water Resources, EIP Associates, Medford Island Habitat Conservation Area, National Marine Fisheries Service, Natural Heritage Institute, Reclamation District No.756 (Bouldin Island), Reclamation District No.2026 (Webb Tract), Reclamation District No.2028 (Bacon Island), San Francisco Estuary Project (Implementation Committee), San Joaquin Audubon Society, State Lands Commission, U.S. EPA Water Division (Region IX), and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Sincerely,



Marcia Brockbank
Project Manager



San Francisco Estuary Project



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COORDINATION OF EFFORTS TO PROMOTE THE CONSERVATION AND RESTORATION OF SACRAMENTO-SAN JOAQUIN DELTA IN-CHANNEL ISLANDS

WHEREAS, natural Delta in-channel islands are an important fish and wildlife habitat resource, and provide habitat for many special status species;

WHEREAS, many Delta in-channel islands provide for other valuable functions such as recreational, aesthetic and levee protection benefits;

WHEREAS, many Delta in-channel islands are diminishing in both acreage and numbers at an unacceptably high rate;

WHEREAS, it appears that it is the unanimous desire of all interests that the Delta would benefit ecologically from the conservation and restoration of the in-channel islands;

WHEREAS, the geographic scope of this agreement has been set as the legal Delta;

WHEREAS, all interests acknowledge that there are other beneficial uses of the Delta, such as water conveyance and recreation, it is the desire of all interests that Delta in-channel islands be conserved and restored to acreage and sites that maximize their ecological benefits, while considering other beneficial uses;

THEREFORE, parties signatory to this agreement (may consist of agencies, non-governmental organizations, governmental bodies, individuals/landowners, and others) agree to work together to reach and implement the goal of halting the decline and degradation of, and working toward the restoration of Delta in-channel islands.

It is envisioned that this goal would be furthered by efforts to promote the following objectives:

Identify conservation and restoration techniques appropriate to site conditions and resource needs;

Identify sites/locales where objectives differ;

Identify work windows (periods to minimize adverse impacts of restoration work activities);

Identify concerns and strategies for surface elevation (relationship to sea-level) objectives;

Identify vegetation objectives;

Address mitigation concerns with respect to conservation/restoration activities, multiple resource value considerations, and the issue of projects serving as mitigation banks for other projects;

Identify incentive strategies for voluntary implementation;

Identify means to improve regulatory and permitting processes to facilitate achievement of resource objectives;

Identify potential funding and in-lieu resources to maximize partnerships/collaboration, and;

Develop a tool such as a channel islands restoration and management manual supportive of the ecosystem functions.

This agreement is not in any way binding. Signatories may enter without constraint and remove themselves by a simple letter noting such to the San Francisco Estuary Project (SFEP). It is hoped those parties committed to collaborative efforts will participate appropriately.

SIGNATORIES

Signature over printed name/date.